

REMARKS

In the Office Action of January 28, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,146,173 to Yagi (hereinafter "Yagi") and rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,443,396 to Tokushige (hereinafter "Tokushige").

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 1. Claims 1-9 are currently pending.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In order to anticipate claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, a reference, taken individually, must explicitly or inherently disclose each and every element cited in the claims. See M.P.E.P § 2131 (8th ed. 2001). Applicant has studied the cited references carefully and respectfully submits that none of the references teach a structure to have a rib and a partition wall.

Rejection by Yagi

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-6, 8, and 9 as being anticipated by Yagi. Yagi is directed to an IC socket that includes a cam surface 18 that changes its operational slope so that as cover 14 is first pressed down and contact 25 is moved to an open position. When cover 14 is first pressed down, the cam surface is a gradual slope allowing a gradual movement of contact 25. As cover 14 continues to move down, the operational slope becomes more steep. The Examiner alleges, *inter alia*, that Figures 1-5 of Yagi disclose that "a rib is provided to be coupled to either a lower surface or a lateral surface of a partition wall where cam 17 is positioned. . . . For

claims 2 and 3, the rib area is lateral and lower surface of the partition wall, where contact part 35 is located.” See Office Action, pg. 2. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Yagi discloses “an actuating assembly 15 that includes a cam member 17 having a flat cam surface 18 that is formed at an acute angle to provide a sloped surface. The cam member 17 is movably mounted to the movable cover 14 by way of projection or support pin 16 formed thereon, and the cam member 17 moves around the support pin 16 when it contacts the cantilevered trigger arm 25 of the test socket terminal. . . .” Yagi, col. 4, ll. 26-32. Because, Yagi provides that cam surface 18 is located on cam member 17, which is movably mountable to cover 14, the cover of Yagi is a separate component from the cam member 17. Thus, Yagi fails to explicitly or inherently disclose, the claimed “cover member. . . .having a cam surface,” as recited in claim 1.

Further, although Applicant is unclear as to which portions of the Figures 1-5 the Examiner refers to in alleging disclosure of the “partition walls” and “ribs,” because cam surface 18 is separate and independently movable from cover 14, Yagi does not explicitly or inherently disclose that the claimed “partition walls” are “are disposed on the cam surface,” as recited in claim 1. Neither is there any disclosure of “ribs” as is now recited. Therefore, this rejection fails for this reason as well.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 1 by Yagi. Applicant also respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection to claims 2-6, 8, and 9 by Yagi based, at least, on their dependency upon allowable independent claim 1.

Rejection by Tokushige

Tokushige is directed to an "IC socket for obviating an electrical connection failure by removing oxidation films with which the surface of lead terminals of an IC package are covered." Tokushige, col. 1, ll. 6-9. Tokushige discloses a cam surface 2a that engages a portion 3a so that contact portion 3b is moved outward from receiver 3e. Engagement working portion 3d1 presses against portion 3a when the cover is depressed, causing a quality electrical connection with the IC.

The Examiner refers to Figures 2-7 as the basis for this rejection, however, there is no disclosure of partition walls or ribs. Although a cross section of the cover is shown in Figures 2-7 of Tokushige, there is no depiction of a cross section for ribs. In addition, there is no depiction of partition walls, because cam surface 2a is shown, when looking into Figure 2, to extend to a back surface of the cover. Laterally, cam surface 2a extends to the end of cover 2 on the right side. In other words, there is no disclosure that cam surface 2a is separated into accommodating sections for engaging portion 3a. This is consistent with the specification which also does not have any disclosure of partition walls or ribs. Thus, Tokushige does not disclose, either explicitly or inherently, at least that "the partition walls are disposed on the cam surface and define adjacent accommodating portions for the plurality of contacts" and that "each rib is disposed between partition walls and is coupled to be integrated to at least one of a lower surface and a lateral surface associated with each partition wall to increase a mechanical strength of each partition wall," as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 1. In addition, based at least on their dependency upon claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 2-9.

With respect to claim 5, Tokushige is a type of IC socket is not a "one-point touch structure." Therefore, the rejection of claim 5 fails for this reason and Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 5 for this reason as well.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

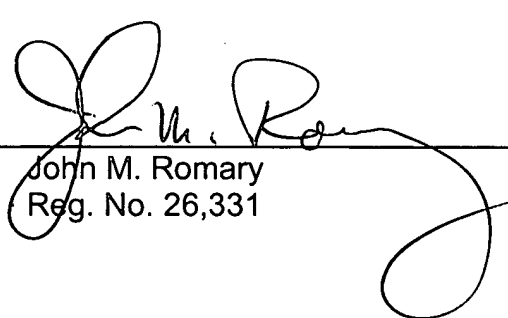
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 15, 2004

By: _____


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